

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (amended) An aqueous dispersed polymeric composition for preparing a spill resistant carpet backing comprising:

- a. an aqueous ~~polyurethane dispersion~~~~dispersed polymeric material~~;
- b. an inorganic filler; and
- c. a hydrophobic compound selected from the group consisting of a hydrophobic acid, a salt of a hydrophobic acid, wherein the hydrophobic acid is selected from the group consisting of butyric acid, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid, gum rosin, wood rosin, tall oil rosin, abietic acid, oxidized polyethylene containing carboxylic acid groups, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymers, polyolefins grafted with unsaturated carboxylic acids, polyolefins grafted with anhydrides, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acrylic acid and mixtures thereof.

2. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler is treated with the hydrophobic salt prior to formation of the aqueous dispersed polymeric composition. ~~wherein the aqueous dispersed polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane dispersion, a styrene-butadiene latex, a butadiene-acrylonitrile latex, an ethylene-vinyl acetate latex, a styrene-butadiene-butyl acrylate latex, a chloroprene latex, a polyethylene copolymer latex, an ethylene-styrene latex, a styrene-butadiene-vinylidene chloride latex, a styrene-alkyl acrylate latex, a vinyl latex, an acrylic latex, and mixtures thereof~~

3. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, kaolin, lignite fly ash, silica, talc, feldspar, mica, glass spheres, wollastonite, aluminum trihydrate, aluminum oxide, fiber glass, and mixtures thereof.

4. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 3, wherein the hydrophobic salt of the hydrophobic acid has a cation that is lithium, calcium, zinc or a combination thereof. ~~hydrophobic compound is selected from the group consisting of butyric acid, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid, gum rosin, wood rosin, tall oil rosin, abietic acid, oxidized polyethylene containing carboxylic acid groups, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymers, polyolefins grafted with unsaturated carboxylic acids, polyolefins grafted with anhydrides, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acrylic acid, and salts thereof.~~

5. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 4, wherein the cation is calcium, zinc or combination thereof. ~~aqueous dispersed polymeric material is a polyurethane dispersion, the inorganic filler is calcium carbonate, and the hydrophobic salt is zinc stearate.~~

6. (amended) ~~The An~~ aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 5 wherein the hydrophobic salt is calcium stearate, zinc stearate or combination thereof. ~~for preparing a spill resistant carpet backing comprising:~~

- a. ~~an aqueous dispersed polymeric material; and~~
- b. ~~a treated inorganic filler, having been treated with a hydrophobic compound selected from the group consisting of a hydrophobic acid, a salt of a hydrophobic acid, and mixtures thereof.~~

7. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic salt is zinc stearate. ~~aqueous dispersed polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane dispersion, a styrene-butadiene latex, a butadiene-acrylonitrile latex, an ethylene-vinyl acetate latex, a styrene-butadiene-butyl acrylate latex, a chloroprene latex, a polyethylene copolymer latex, an ethylene-styrene latex, a styrene-butadiene-vinylidene chloride latex, a styrene-alkyl acrylate latex, a vinyl latex, an acrylic~~

~~latex, and mixtures thereof.~~

8. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 7, wherein the zinc stearate is wettable, ~~inorganic filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, kaolin, lignite fly ash, silica, talc, feldspar, mica, glass spheres, wollastonite, aluminum trihydrate, aluminum oxide, fiber glass, and mixtures thereof.~~

9. (amended) ~~The~~ An aqueous dispersed polymeric composition for preparing a spill resistant carpet backing comprising: ~~of Claim 8,~~

a. an aqueous dispersed material;

b. an inorganic filler; and

c. a hydrophobic salt of a hydrophobic acid, ~~wherein the hydrophobic compound is selected from the group consisting of butyric acid, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid, gum rosin, wood rosin, tall oil rosin, abietic acid, oxidized polyethylene containing carboxylic acid groups, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymers, polyolefins grafted with unsaturated carboxylic acids, polyolefins grafted with anhydrides, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acrylic acid, and salts thereof.~~

10. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 9, wherein the aqueous dispersed polymeric material is a polyurethane dispersion, ~~the treated inorganic filler is stearic acid-treated calcium carbonate.~~

11. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 9, wherein the inorganic filler has thereon a coating of the hydrophobic salt.

~~A kit for preparing a spill resistant carpet backing comprising:~~

~~an aqueous dispersed polymeric material;~~

~~an inorganic filler; and~~

~~a hydrophobic compound selected from the group consisting of a hydrophobic acid, a salt of~~

~~a hydrophobic acid, and mixtures thereof.~~

12. (amended) The kit of Claim 11, wherein the aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 9, wherein the aqueous dispersed polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane dispersion, a styrene-butadiene latex, a butadiene-acrylonitrile latex, an ethylene-vinyl acetate latex, a styrene-butadiene-butyl acrylate latex, a chloroprene latex, a polyethylene copolymer latex, an ethylene-styrene latex, a styrene-butadiene-vinylidene chloride latex, a styrene-alkyl acrylate latex, a vinyl latex, an acrylic latex, and mixtures thereof.

13. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 9 of kit Claim 12, wherein the inorganic filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, kaolin, lignite fly ash, silica, talc, feldspar, mica, glass spheres, wollastonite, aluminum trihydrate, aluminum oxide, fiber glass, and mixtures thereof.

14. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 9, wherein the hydrophobic salt of the hydrophobic acid has a cation that is lithium, calcium, zinc or combination thereof. ~~kit of Claim 13, wherein the hydrophobic compound is selected from the group consisting of butyric acid, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid, gum rosin, wood rosin, tall oil rosin, abietic acid, oxidized polyethylene containing carboxylic acid groups, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymers, polyolefins grafted with unsaturated carboxylic acids, polyolefins grafted with anhydrides, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acrylic acid, and salts thereof.~~

15. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 14, wherein the cation is calcium, zinc or combination thereof. A kit for preparing a spill resistant carpet backing comprising:

~~an aqueous dispersed polymeric material; and~~

~~b. — a treated inorganic filler, having been treated with a hydrophobic compound selected from the group consisting of a hydrophobic acid, a salt of a hydrophobic acid, and mixtures thereof.~~

16. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 9, wherein the hydrophobic salt is calcium stearate, zinc stearate or combination thereof. ~~kit of Claim 15,~~

~~wherein the aqueous dispersed polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane dispersion, a styrene-butadiene latex, a butadiene-acrylonitrile latex, an ethylene-vinyl acetate latex, a styrene-butadiene-butyl acrylate latex, a chloroprene latex, a polyethylene copolymer latex, an ethylene-styrene latex, a styrene-butadiene-vinylidene chloride latex, a styrene-alkyl acrylate latex, a vinyl latex, an acrylic latex, and mixtures thereof.~~

17. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 16, wherein the hydrophobic salt is zinc stearate. ~~kit of Claim 16, wherein the inorganic filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, kaolin, lignite fly ash, silica, talc, feldspar, mica, glass spheres, wollastonite, aluminum trihydrate, aluminum oxide, fiber glass, and mixtures thereof.~~

18. (amended) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 17 wherein the hydrophobic salt is wettable zinc stearate. ~~kit Claim 17, wherein the hydrophobic compound is selected from the group consisting of butyric acid, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid, gum rosin, wood rosin, tall oil rosin, abietic acid, oxidized polyethylene containing carboxylic acid groups, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymers, polyolefins grafted with unsaturated carboxylic acids, polyolefins grafted with anhydrides, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acrylic acid, and salts thereof.~~

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (amended) ~~The method of Claim 21~~ aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 9, wherein the hydrophobic ~~compound~~ acid is selected from the group consisting of butyric acid, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid, gum rosin, wood rosin, tall oil rosin, abietic acid, oxidized polyethylene containing carboxylic acid groups, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymers, polyolefins grafted with unsaturated carboxylic acids, polyolefins grafted with anhydrides, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acrylic acid, and ~~salts thereof~~ mixtures thereof.

23. (amended) A spill resistant carpet backing prepared using the aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 1. ~~in accordance with Claim 22.~~

24. (original) The spill resistant carpet backing of Claim 23, wherein the spill resistant carpet backing is a carpet layer selected from the group consisting of a precoat, a laminate layer, and a foam layer.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (amended) A spill resistant carpet backing prepared using the aqueous polymeric composition of Claim 9. ~~in accordance with Claim 28.~~

30. (original) The spill resistant carpet backing of Claim 29, wherein the spill resistant carpet backing is a carpet layer selected from the group consisting of a precoat, a laminate layer, and a foam layer.

31. (new) An aqueous dispersed polymeric composition for preparing a spill resistant carpet backing comprising:

- (a) an aqueous dispersed polymeric material;
- (b) an inorganic filler; and
- (c) a hydrophobic compound selected from the group consisting of a hydrophobic acid, a salt of a hydrophobic acid and mixtures thereof, wherein the hydrophobic compound has a melting point of at least about 120°C.

32. (new) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 31, wherein the hydrophobic compound is zinc stearate, calcium stearate, lithium stearate or a combination thereof.

33. (new) The aqueous dispersed polymeric composition of Claim 31, wherein the

Appln. No. 09/762,546  
Response dated October 22, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2003

melting point is at most about 212°C.